

Vital Statistics Re-Engineers Database System

KDHE's Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) has been re-engineering their computer database system to better serve their partners. The bureau switched from an AS400 to a Web-based database and on Jan. 1, 2005. OVS implemented the new certificate revision and Web-based reporting of vital events.

Through this new process, hospitals can print birth and stillbirth certificates. Kansas district courts were offered the opportunity to go online to electronically file divorce/annulment and marriage certificates. OVS also offered funeral homes the opportunity to enter client's personal data and print the legal death certificate online.

The establishment of the full electronic death registration is the next phase of OVS' re-engineering project. Several states are already doing this, including South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and New York City. Eight states are now developing full electronic death systems.

The electronic death registration will allow the states and U. S. territories to receive fact of death immediately and flag decedents birth records to prevent anyone from obtaining the decedent's birth certificate for fraudulent purposes.

The electronic death registration will work with Social Security Administration software that has been designed to work with all states to verify the decedent's Social Security number. The application will notify funeral homes that the Social Security number given for the deceased is correct or not. This process will replace the paper notification that is being done now and will save families from receiving monies that will have to be paid back to Social Security later.

Another component of the electronic death registration is changing the way cremation requests are processed. We are looking at how we can handle this process electronically by special notification to indicate the urgency to the doctors or their staff and the coroners. There will be an option to complete and print the Permission to Cremate and the Out of State Transit Forms with auto-populated information that was entered into the VRV Web application. We would also like to offer the possibility of printing the Family Permission to Cremate Form used by funeral homes.

Hospitals will also be added to the process to file death certificates online. OVS is looking to add the Veteran Administration hospitals online to work with the funeral homes to file death certificates. The office's goal is to implement the full electronic death registration by the end of 2008. This includes getting the doctors and coroners online to complete the cause of death and medical information and all funeral homes online.